



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

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CONTACT: Timothy M. Horthy
(317) 229-2403; Cell: (317) 716-4250
tim.horthy@usdoj.gov

LAST DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN EVANSVILLE/CHICAGO DRUG TRAFFICKING INDICTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced the sentencing of the last defendant in a federal cocaine trafficking conspiracy in United States District Court in Evansville. The sentencing Wednesday of defendant Lamar Duerson, 32, was the last of 11 persons charged by federal indictment in 2010, to 20 years imprisonment. This brings to a close the investigation and prosecution of a group responsible for the trafficking of large amounts of cocaine between Chicago and Evansville.

Sentences handed down by the United States District Court Chief Judge Richard L. Young have included:

- KELLY SHIDLER sentenced to 132 months imprisonment,
- MICHAEL DAVIS, sentenced to 120 months imprisonment,
- JULIUS WILBOURN, sentenced 240 months imprisonment,
- LARON SEALES, sentenced to 240 months imprisonment,
- LAMAR DUERSON, sentenced to 240 months imprisonment,
- ANDRE KING, sentenced to 48 months imprisonment,
- MELVIN COLLIER, sentenced to 48 months imprisonment,
- AMBER POWELL, sentenced to 30 months imprisonment.

Three additional defendants were sentenced to probation for their roles in the conspiracy.

The federal indictment arose from a joint federal, state and local law enforcement investigation, led by the DEA and the Evansville Vanderburgh County Drug Task Force. During the course of the investigation, defendants Davis and Shidler were identified as obtaining large quantities of cocaine from sources in Chicago, Illinois, and distributing it in the Evansville and Henderson areas. The other defendants assisted Shidler and Davis in their drug trafficking activities, acting as mid and lower level distributors or serving as couriers and helpers within the

organization. On February 1, 2010, police officers in Terre Haute, Indiana, intercepted a vehicle containing 1 kilogram of cocaine procured by Davis and Shidler in Chicago, which was en route to Evansville. A subsequent police search at a residence in Chicago resulted in the seizure of an additional approximately 24 kilograms of the drug. The prosecution and subsequent sentences of Shidler, Davis and their co-defendants in federal court brings to a close the group's drug distribution operation.

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